

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 00245 091440Z

45

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-09 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00

/087 W

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P R 082128Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7181

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY QUITO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR VE

SUBJ: REACTION TO JANUARY 6 KISSINGER STATEMENT ON TRADE BILL

1. LEADING CARACAS DAILIES ON JANUARY 7 CARRIED PROMINENT HEADLINES REPORTING THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT DEPLORING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES IN THE NEW TRADE LAW. THE PRESS NOTED THAT THE SECRETARY'S ACTION, ANNOUNCED BY PRESS SPOKESMAN ROBERT ANDERSON ON JANUARY 6, INCLUDED A DECISION TO ASK CONGRESS TO RELAX RESTRICTIONS AGAINST AT LEAST SOME OF THE OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES. THE PAPERS REPORTED ANDERSON'S COMMENT THAT THE SECRETARY'S ACTION FOLLOWED A COMPLAINT BY ECUADOR, WHICH THREATENED TO BOYCOTT THE BUENOS AIRES MINISTERIAL MEETING, AND THAT VENEZUELA AS WELL WOULD SUFFER UNJUSTLY FROM THESE RESTRICTIONS.

2. COMMENT: THERE HAS NOT YET BEEN ANY OFFICIAL REACTION TO THE SECRETARY'S POSITION ANNOUNCED BY ANDERSON ON JANUARY 6. HOWEVER, THE PROMINENT PRESS COVERAGE OF THE SECRETARY'S PROMPT DECISION TO SEEK RELAXATION OF THE RESTRICTIONS IN THE TRADE LAW AGAINST VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR COULD BE HELPFUL IN TEMPERING THE CHORUS OF LOCAL CRITICISM OF THE DISCRIMINATORY FEATURES OF THE TRADE LAW. IT COULD ALSO HELP MODERATE THE TONE OF CONFRONTATION IN THE GOV'S

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DRIVE FOR A SPECIAL OAS MEETING. EMBASSY WILL REPORT OFFICIAL

REACTIONS AS SOON AS THEY BECOME KNOWN.

MILLS

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